



Community Conversation

Teddington, Hampton Wick and South Teddington Community Conversation

DATE: 6:30pm-9pm, Tuesday 25th February 2025

VENUE: Teddington Baptist Church, 17 Church Road, TW11 8PF

CHAIR: Cathy Maker, Chief Executive, Richmond Users Independent Living Scheme (RUILS)

AGENDA

6.30pm – 7.00pm:	Refreshments and Council information stands
7.00pm – 7.10pm:	Welcome and Introduction to the Community Conversation
7.10pm – 8.10pm:	<p>Priority themes discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High Streets/ Nighttime Strategy - Councillor Giesler 2. Teddington River Abstraction - Councillor Engel 3. Housing and Social Housing Improvement Plan (SHIP) - Councillor Millard 4. Cost of Living - Councillor Brown



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	(Brief introduction of each theme followed by comments, observations, and questions from the audience)
8.10pm – 8.50pm:	Open conversation with the audience
8.50pm - 9.00pm:	Event close

COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE:**Hampton Wick and South Teddington**

- Councillor Robin Brown
- Councillor Petra Fleming
- Councillor Jim Millard

Teddington

- Councillor Richard Baker
- Councillor Charlie Engel
- Councillor Phil Giesler

Theme 1	Discussion
High Streets and Nighttime Strategy	Introduction from Councillor Giesler (Teddington Councillor and Business and Growth Lead Member) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced role of the Council's high streets team in supporting our local high streets and co-ordinating local events and marketing e.g. Christmas festivities and Shop Local.



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- Teddington has maintained a relatively stable economic environment, demonstrating resilience in the face of recent challenges, and has a low vacancy rate currently at 4% (lowest rate in the borough). There is a good range of businesses and a good turnover of new businesses entering the spaces. Teddington has Teddington Together to support businesses in the area.
- Hampton Wick's high street has historically faced more of a challenge, largely due to its proximity to Kingston, however there are some good independent shops there which are supported and co-ordinated by the Hampton Wick association and business groups.
- Two challenges are Government increasing National Insurance (NI) for employers and reduction on discount for business rates from 70% to 40% in April.
- Things the Council is looking to do to help:
 - Public realm improvement fund schemes
 - Designs have been put together for a scheme around the square in Hampton Wick, and we are looking at how that can be implemented over the next 1-2 years.
 - The Richmond Nighttime Strategy is being launched: <https://ntsrichmond.commonplace.is/>
 - The strategy encompasses anything that takes place between 6pm and 6am and takes into account both residents' and visitors' views while highlighting concerns around safety and how employees can get to and from work safely, with bespoke guidance for each town centre.
 - Visit Richmond also focuses on bringing visitors into the borough and highlights upcoming events: <https://www.visitrichmond.co.uk/>

Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)

- **Question from resident:** About upcoming public realm schemes, including Teddington Broad Street.
- **Response from Councillor Giesler:** A consultation was conducted in 2023 on the scheme, and the Council will be delivering greening works, art/murals, and promoting all the famous individuals in the area to Teddington on Broad Street, expected in summer/ early autumn. There have been some delays due to drainage/ greening works to ensure the whole thing is sustainable. It has now been handed over to the transport team who are preparing the final drawings.



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- **Response from Councillor Giesler:** Has been collaborating with Cllr Baker and the Teddington Society to fight against a few rogue shopfronts over the last 6 months.
- **Question from resident:** About plans to increase residents parking to include the areas around Sainsburys on the high street.
- **Response from Councillor Giesler:** Aware of this issue for high street residents and reviewing some of the numbers in those zones to see what spare space can be offered to residents, either through flexibility of where they can park or better zoning systems. Will come back with a response in a month or so.
- **Question from resident:** Whether the Council have any powers to create a more diverse array of shops on the high street, as Hampton Wick is becoming mono-cultural.
- **Response from Councillor Giesler:** The Council ensures the proper licensing and regulations are in place via the licensing committee. The Council does not have control over which shops high streets can and cannot have, and this is dependent on demand in the area. Within Hampton Wick's high street, there are some good, thriving independent shops. Some new planning changes can make things more flexible and allow changes of use without needing to go to the council.
- **Response from Councillor Millard:** This reflects how high streets are changing, and the new importance of placemaking and the roles both the Council and the community have in enhancing spaces better. In Hampton Wick we're looking to create a piazza, closing the bottom of Park Road which was overwhelmingly supported by residents and the Hampton Wick Association. Intention is to create a new heart with benches and tables that support the growth of more cafes and delis. Important we try to create an infrastructure that creates a new life.
- **Response from Councillor Brown:** 'Use Class E' for shops means there is no need for planning permission from the Council to change use. The council has no control over what types of businesses operate, which has been very much left to the market. The government has made it a lot easier to convert shops into residential premises on high streets, but the Council put an order in place to remove that power for certain areas of the borough. We have tried to protect the high streets in their current function.
- **Question from resident:** Reflecting on the unique features such as the post office and pubs, which are important to protect, to retain identity.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response from Councillor Brown: Pubs are specifically protected meaning if they want to change their use there are various restrictions in place and the Council does have some power to protect this. Post Offices less so. The things that are going to keep these places alive are people going in and spending. • Response from Councillor Giesler: Important point on post offices as they now play a bigger role since bank branches have been closed. In Teddington and Hampton Wick we don't have a single bank, so would need to go to Kingston or Richmond, but the Post Office does provide lots of services. The more we can use them, the better.
Theme 2	Discussion
Teddington River Abstraction	<p>Introduction from Councillor Engel (Teddington Councillor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) project is a water transfer initiative impacting London Boroughs of Hounslow, Richmond, and Kingston by transferring up to 75ML/D of raw river water from the River Thames at Teddington to the Lee Valley Reservoirs during drought periods. To achieve this a new facility will be built at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works and water enter the Thames via a new outfall near Teddington weir. • Ward Councillors remain unconvinced that Thames Water have sufficiently proven that they can deliver a scheme to scale given the complexity without risks. • Whilst the project is a NSIP (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project), which means the Council are not the decision-making authority but are a key statutory consultee, meaning the Council's role is to scrutinise the plans rigorously and challenge Thames Water on their claims to ensure the least impactful outcome for our community and our environment. The Council will continue to demand robust evidence at every stage and thorough scrutiny with a focus on environmental protections and the interest of the local community and want to hear what thoughts/concerns/questions residents here tonight have and help shape this conversation. <p>Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)</p>



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- **Question from resident:** Thames Water will be conducting a statutory consultation on their proposal this summer in the community. In preparation for the technical aspects of this, will Council be buying in expertise on key subjects such as quality of water, hydrology, conservation?
- **Response from Councillor Engel:** Regarding some of the technical expertise needed, the Council is very open to employing expertise – will take the question away and provide a thorough answer on steps the Council is taking.
- **Response from Councillor Brown:** Need to wait to see what Thames Water come out with within their consultation in order to know how best to respond, but open to employing extra specialist advice as we need it.
- **Response from Councillor Millard:** Lead Member for Environment Cllr Neden-Watts also echoes that the Council will employ expertise where it is needed, and we will be asking Thames Water to cover those costs

- **Question from resident:** Raised concerns about the health of the drinking water, given that fresh water will be extracted for treatment works, despite Thames Water saying this should not affect water quality. Asked whether the Council is working closely with Kingston Council on this.
- **Response from Councillor Engel:** The Council is working closely with Kingston Council, and Thames Water advises it will be abstracting water from Ham downstream to replace it and keep the flow constant.

- **Question from resident:** The river is already unsafe, so looking at the inflow, it's important to realise that it's not an inflow into pure water but water that needs to be tested.
- **Response from Councillor Millard:** Thames Water has responded and is worsening the water quality. One explanation Thames Water puts forward is that they already do it upstream.
- **Response from Councillor Engel:** The amount of sewage in the river caused by discharges upstream has been immense in the last few weeks. The biggest concern is Thames Water's current performance. The Council is looking at what better alternative structures can be put forward and what monitoring mechanisms need to be in place going upstream. It's important for residents to help the Council report what they see so that it can be documented and get involved in the consultation that is coming up this summer.
- **Response from Councillor Fleming:** It's shocking how Thames Water has been allowed to let the sewage infrastructure deteriorate, we cannot believe it. Cllr Fleming encourages residents to express their views.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment from resident: Encouraged all to engage with public consultation and express views, the volume of public response is powerful especially now this is an NSIP. The consultation is expected to take place over summer 2025. Teddington is a unique river location, Sadiq Khan announced that Teddington was one of the four new potential swimming spots for Greater London which is completely contrary to Thames Water tipping in untreated sewage. Another swimming spot location identified was Albany Beach, just by Hampton Court. There can be a positive message the Council can take back; the river has these unique swimming spots, and it should be considered in this project as we know that there are way better alternatives than this scheme. The SOLAR campaign group does not disagree with the abstraction, because they believe that there are far better alternative schemes and locations have yet to be explored. • Response from Councillor Fleming: Several meetings with Thames Water have taken place and have been pressing on what alternatives they are exploring. Thames Water has always replied that this option is the cheapest way forward because there is already an existing tunnel. Thames Water has put together a business case demonstrating it's the cheapest option, but we need to continue to investigate this in light of the acknowledged debt the company has. • Response from Councillor Engel: The Mayor of London's response was very interesting as it happened at the same time DEFRA responded, supporting the proposal. As the GLA assembly member, Leader of the Council Cllr Roberts is able to influence these discussions across London, and Munira Wilson MP is also pushing this through Parliament to consider alternative infrastructure projects. The consultation is expected to start around June.
Theme 3	Discussion
Housing and Social Housing Improvement Plan (SHIP)	<p>Introduction from Councillor Millard (Hampton Wick and South Teddington Councillor, Deputy Leader and Vice-chair of Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Services Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor conditions in social housing have been prevalent in the news in recent years, impacting tenants' health and wellbeing. Since 2000, Richmond has been a non-stock holding Council with all stock transferred to a purpose-made housing association, however the Council does maintain a responsibility to work in partnership with our residents and housing association partners to ensure residents are receiving the service they deserve.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In November 2024, the Richmond Social Housing Improvement Plan (SHIP) was officially launched with key representatives from the borough’s main four housing associations: Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP), Paragon Asra (PA) Housing, Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) and London & Quadrant (L&Q).• The plan sets out a clear vision and a roadmap for driving improvements for tenants in existing social housing. The SHIP was developed in partnership with housing associations and there is an expectation that they will deliver the five commitments, with the Council able to track progress against and ensure annual updates are shared with the Richmond Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee.• As a council without any housing stock, there are limitations in how improvements can be delivered directly. However, the Council play a valuable role as a scrutineer of housing associations, ensuring that each of the commitments are being met and that performance is monitored, alongside partners such as the VCS and RUILS. The SHIP is the Council’s assurance to residents about the important role it fulfils to help improve homes and communities.• The SHIP is centred on five key commitments: putting the resident voice at the heart of decision-making, improving repairs services, tackling defects and disrepair, investing in sustainable homes, and investing in safe and strong communities.• Within each there are a series of outcomes that housing associations are expected to work towards. The focus is very much on improvement and making a positive impact across a range of areas, from making more homes energy efficient through to ensuring community facilities are more accessible.• The SHIP complements the role of the Tenants’ Champion and the Community Ambassadors. The Tenants’ Champion focuses on individual cases, helping to ensure timely resolution to issues raised by tenants about their housing association. Community Ambassadors meanwhile are volunteers who live in housing association estates and undertake important work to improve their communities for example, by attending estate inspections or highlighting important matters that the Council or its housing partners can act on. Their role is central to create a culture of listening and supporting marginalised communities.• Over the next 4-5 years we are hoping to see significant improvements for residents in this borough. <p>Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)</p>
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- **Question from resident:** Resident highlights the Council has built about 800 houses in the last 10 years, and now there is a big target from the current government, so asked where the Council will build the new homes, and how this would affect Teddington.
- **Response from Councillor Millard:** The newly refreshed planning policy framework realised by the government uses the standard method when generating figures for the borough for 2,500 new homes to be built annually. This includes all types of housing, from social housing to private development. The final figures from the NPPF are a starting point, the London Plan tends to use more complex measures that look at the local challenges and deliverability so will be lower. The Council recognises the importance of affordable housing, and there are people who are more disadvantaged than others. When the current administration took over in 2018, work was done to find sites around the borough where new affordable housing could be built and seeing work beginning on new sites this year. There is a need to use space more cleverly to increase the amount of housing throughout the borough organically and want to hear resident views on this. Can also assure that increases in housing are going to be matched by increases in the necessary infrastructure to support this such as schools and doctors' surgeries. As over 50% of the Borough is protected green space, whilst we support the genuinely affordable housebuilding targets, we must recognise the limitations.
- **Response from Councillor Giesler:** There are areas within Teddington where individuals would like to do some smaller scale development- such as Teddington Police Station, which the Council would very much like to acquire for mixed use, including some social housing. There are some smaller schemes in our ward, that if we work together in our community to ensure residents are included, we can stand more chance to move these forwards.
- **Question from resident:** Asked how the Council will ensure new housing stock is energy efficient and high quality, as well as ensure that build, build, build doesn't just benefit the property developers.
- **Response from Councillor Millard:** It's all about the Local Plan, it's a plan led system and it's about the planning process. We want to see a number of things from every developer, specifically affordable housing that is genuinely affordable. It's mainly about robust policies, and our emerging plan has these. We want to see 50% affordable housing on all sites, on public land we will be taking a fast-track approach. It's all about viability and developers will want to focus on being able to make a profit, but it's our responsibility to show that meeting these targets are viable and we will use viability accessors to demonstrate this. We also want to see net gain biodiversity and ensure that they are as sustainable as possible.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Raised issues faced by social housing residents including rising rent and Antisocial behaviour. • Response from Councillor Millard: The Council is tackling anti-social issues by working with safer community teams and the Metropolitan Police to get evidence to evict those causing these issues. The Council has over 2,500 families on the list waiting for social housing, and we are going to do our best to ensure all social housing is in use by those who are appreciative and positive members of our communities. “I am here to listen today and want to hear from you all.” • Response from Councillor Engel: The Council has tried to build better relationships with the housing associations to enable better reporting and monitoring. The housing associations have volunteered to attend the committee meetings regularly and must address the challenges that residents raise directly. Agree it is not good enough, and there is work to be done.
Theme 4	Discussion
Cost of Living	<p>Introduction from Councillor Brown (Lead Member for Finance and Resources)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, Richmond Council created a Cost-of-Living Programme to help residents, communities and businesses deal with the impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis. • To date, £4.5 million has been allocated to supporting people in the borough with rising costs. This includes maximising people’s income, reducing their expenditure, and building their resilience (financially and emotionally) to deal with future challenges. • Free School Meals - The Council currently provide food vouchers during school holidays for 4,630 children on free school meals in Richmond. The number of children eligible for free school meals has increased 18% due to the auto-enrolment of children who were eligible for free school meals but not claiming. • The Council recognises that the increased cost of living continues to affect residents and are continuing to provide support via investing in increased information and advice services via the Council’s partners Citizens Advice Richmond, Age UK Richmond, and Richmond AID. Both Citizens Advice and Richmond AID have been given hardship funding from the council that they can give out at their discretion to those most in need. • The Council has again run its Winter Fuel Scheme, offering up to £170 to pensioner households on benefits or low incomes to help with the cost of heating and fuel. Roughly 1,500 households in the borough take advantage of this. This winter, the



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	<p>Council also offered a one-off payment of £100 to roughly 900 pensioner households claiming Council Tax Reduction but not in receipt of pension credit to help mitigate the loss of the winter fuel allowance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Spaces - The Council has partnered with local voluntary, community, and faith organisations in the borough to launch our network of Community Spaces for another year. In our borough, there are currently 36 Community Spaces with 4,800 people accessing this service in the past year alone. In this area we have Hampton Wick Library and Teddington Library, also Teddington Community Cafe. Along with offering a safe, warm space, Community Spaces also provide access to information, guidance, and financial support. At some spaces, homework clubs, hot food, and family days are also available. • Warm Homes - The Council has provided 1,325 warm packs to eligible residents throughout the borough. Each pack contains LED light bulbs, draft excluding tape, and radiator foils and has the potential to save £200 per year in energy costs. These are still available from the Civic Centre. • Holding Money Advice Roadshows in the borough to provide residents with financial advice and support. • The Cost-of-Living Hub includes a list of upcoming cost of living events, tips for reducing your cost of living, links to support and advice from partner organisations, and the ‘Entitled To’ Calculator. The ‘Entitled To’ Calculator helps residents to identify any financial support they may be entitled to and is available for anyone to access. • Data Analytics - The Council is using data to identify vulnerable households who are not currently claiming all the financial support available to them via the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT). Information from LIFT is used to contact people to increase their awareness and take-up of benefits and other support. LIFT campaigns are ongoing in several areas including Pension Credits, Attendance Allowance, and Water Social Tariffs. • The increase of eligible children has increased the Pupil Premium funding for local schools by over £932,000 per year. • Making sure crisis grants remain available to those who need them. • Helping people to find work via our Work Match service. • Working with partners to develop a Food Strategy so that we can target support where it will have the greatest impact. Helping eligible families with young children to access healthy food under the NHS Healthy Start scheme. <p>Conversation (Comments, Questions and Observations)</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Wanted to raise awareness of the Real Junk Food Project, who have community cafes and food surplus hubs, no referral needed. • Response from Councillor Brown: The Real Junk Food Project runs out of the ETNA centre and is a great resource, another is Food for Thought which operate out of Heathfield Rec. The Council is now working on a food strategy, the aim is to ensure that what is being provided will be joined up in terms of support and we are able to provide tailored support depending on where residents live.
	Open Discussion
Heathrow Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Asked about whether Heathrow expansion will be a priority and how the Council plans to coordinate a response. • Response from Councillor Giesler: The Heathrow Standing Committee had a meeting recently, just predating the Government's announcement. The Committee has had a lot of input from the groups around Richmond, including Teddington Action Group who have been a very useful partner. The Council is opposed to Heathrow expansion - one major reason is the environmental impact (aircraft emissions) and it's going to make it very difficult for the Government to meet their climate targets by allowing the expansion of Heathrow. There are other critical problems, particularly to do with noise that would impact residents in the Borough in a way that other schemes to address increased aviation capacity in London such as Luton/Gatwick would not. 300,000-400,000 residents would be impacted by noise in Richmond, whereas Gatwick and Luton are looking more like 5000-6000 which is a substantial difference. • The airport has not come up with a final scheme but think it's going to be a similar scheme publicised prior to Covid -19 which mentions massive re-routing of the M25, additional terminals on land north of the airport. Heathrow have assured that the costs would be entirely covered by private finance, however this would in turn lead to massive increase in charges for people wanting to use the airport, high landing charges in comparison to other airports. Ultimately this means the consumer would be the one to pay. • Leader of Richmond Council, Councillor Gareth Roberts, wrote to surrounding authorities as soon as the announcement came out, got support from 5 main local authorities to re-start the anti-Heathrow coalition which was quite successful in terms of the legal challenges previously, and there is interest from surrounding MPs too.



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Development of Broad Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Asked whether the pavement is being included in plans for the development of Broad Street due to issues with uneven paving and sitting water from asphalt being used to fill in gaps. • Response from Councillor Baker: Situation regarding the pavement on the high streets is not good, but funding is a barrier. Repairs and maintenance will be done, but not immediately. • Response from Councillor Millard: Recognises roads and pavements need additional investment. • Response from Councillor Brown: At the last Finance Meeting spoke about the Capital Plan and intend to significantly step up the amount that spent on road and pavement repairs over the next three years. Priorities for where this investment will be directed will be influenced by the survey work conducted by officers, assessing where the need is greatest. If there are issues, urge residents to report this so it can be factored into the needs assessments done by officers. • Response from Cathy Maker (Chair): RUILS host a transport and mobility forum which meets every few months. Rail companies attend, bus companies attend and it's all about access so if anyone would like to come along to share thoughts to providers, please do get in touch with RUILS.
Accessibility – Lime Bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Issue in Hampton Wick with Lime bikes being stacked up and left on the pavements creating accessibility issues. • Response from Councillor Giesler: Lime has an agreement with Richmond and has increased cycling throughout the borough. Recognise there are issues, such as bad parking of the bicycles and bicycles being hacked. Lime's attention to these issues is a major concern. Bringing the contract back for review at the Transport Committee, but this has been postponed as the Government is now looking at legislation around micromobility options. Some of the remit for Lime and how its organised may now be responsibility of TfL rather than individual Councils. There are other providers also keen to operate in the borough, meaning Lime are now taking more notice of complaints. This is something we will continue to monitor. • Response from Councillor Brown: All Councillors are very aware of this issue due to large amounts of feedback from residents. Cycle crossing investment is not being paid for using Council resource, but TfL funding (active travel fund that the Council has bid for). This is an important scheme to help join up the Kingston roundabout for bicycles at the junction to make it safer, joining up Kingston Bridge and Bushy Park through the zebra crossings which have been improved.



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LGC (Local Government Chemist site) Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions from resident: Asked for information about the proposed demolition of current buildings and development of land being held by LGC. One building included they believe to be of historical interest (Barnes Wallis test building). At developer meeting, told there would be 24/7 access for deliveries, no control on classification of buildings so may have manufacturing which could cause light, air, and noise pollution. Planning permission being requested imminently. • Response from Councillor Baker: The Government Chemist has sold the land to an insurance company, who have appointed a developer called Grafton Gate who have put in plans for light industrial development. The land already has an industrial classification so it's hard to change that. Barnes Wallis building has historic interest, but it is not part of their plans to demolish it. They have had two consultations on 11th and 13th February and took away concerns of residents, and at that first stage were looking at Colls Hill Road, Queens Road, and Admiralty Avenue. They will be having another wider consultation where they will have picked up issues and concerns from residents. They are knocking down the old laboratories and putting up light industrial units, so it's going to be an industrial estate. They like the idea that the National Physical Laboratory is nearby so will be trying to follow up on science companies who might take areas of the site. Nothing definitive in the plans yet on who they are going to sell to, but particularly concerned around what this will mean for transport. Been told by developer that transport will be a lot less – they don't anticipate there being big HGVs, more white vans coming in and out; and believed motor traffic will be halved from what it was previously • Response from Councillor Giesler: Will need to see what comes through on planning. • Question from resident: Asked about restrictions on 24/7 access. • Response from Councillor Baker: 24/7 access was not mentioned at consultation, will follow up on that.
Paving on Broad Street/Church Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: The paving on Church Street is uneven, and funding needs to be found to sort it out. • Response from Councillor Giesler: Will support this, can share criteria that officers use when dividing to replace paving. There is extra money available for paving, don't yet know what the priority will be, but will make sure that the reality of quality of pavements is considered along with criteria we get.
Lifts at Railway Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Asked for update on lifts at the railway.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response from Councillor Baker: Been told March 2025, the recent delay was due to a faulty part sent by the manufacturers from Sweden that had to be specially made. Noticed two vans with lift operators and hopeful we will see the lifts operating in March 2025 – that’s the latest from Network Rail.
Update on Playing fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Asked for update on Udney Park Playing Fields. • Response from Councillor Brown: There will be no housing development. The fields are privately owned by a real estate developer. The Council has just implemented Richmond Moves Strategy (https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/ivjoodnd/richmond_moves_strategy.pdf), and keen to see more people getting into sport. Would like to see the pavilion being in use and in good condition. The Council’s powers are to make sure development does not happen, and the Council has consistently provided planning advice, and all decisions supported through the planning enquiry have said there should be no development. It has now been designated as a local green space, so as well as importance for sports, there is ecological interest there. Speaks frequently to Jonathan Dun, who is the driving force behind the Udney Park Playing Fields Foundation. Jonathan is putting forward plans on how the playing fields could operate on not-for-profit ownership, and Council have given support. Jonathan has made an offer, it’s an asset of community value, but struggling to get engagement from current owners. Council officers pushed to make sure boundaries are maintained properly, and the roof has been made watertight. • Question from resident: At hustings on 28th June last year, all candidates expressed their wish for the Council to exercise their CPO powers to compulsively purchase Udney Park so it could be used as playing fields, so asked about what has happened since then and what is planned to happen and when. • Response from Councillor Brown: Council is cooperating with Jonathan to develop a viable plan on how the playing field should be used. If a CPO was being considered, that would be a prerequisite as there are conditions needed in place before getting into a CPO. These include a need to have the financial backing to complete the purchase, have an operator and financial means to secure use on an ongoing basis. There are high hurdles to take private property away from a private owner into public ownership against their will. Focus is on working with Jonathan to work on his plan and get current owners to the table to agree some sort of change on how it is used.



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Littering in Teddington & Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Asked about litter situation in Teddington. • Response from Councillor Brown: Trying to hold Continental more tightly to their contracts to clean streets – high streets should be cleaned every day, residential roads should be swept and cleaned on a two-weekly cycle. Councillors get feedback from residents that do not feel this timetable is adhered to. Engaging in conversations with Serco, but in a tight budget round, so trying to find additional money to support them, so they have a bit more capacity and resource to clean up. Trying to organise street cleaning to be a day after waste collection, but when this is on a Friday we have to wait until Monday. Overall trying to work on this and get borough as clean and tidy as possible.
Support Older Residents & Creatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from resident: Asked about support for older residents and supporting creatives who want to work with Richmond Council. • Response from Councillor Giesler: Borough relies on lots of people who work for themselves or small companies. Opportunities to bring creatives together include Enterprise Centre in Patch in Twickenham including creative studio work. Trying to deliver more as part of nighttime economy work. • Response from Cathy Maker (Chair): Lots of voluntary groups run by amazing people in creative sector and really grateful for engagement across this borough. Thanks everyone for their time this evening.
Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Thanked everyone for their contribution.